Recruitment to Defence Services on caste basis

764. SHRI SANJAY RAUT:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been several demands from some quarters that the recruitment to Defence Services should be done on the basis of caste with SC, ST and Other Backward Classes;

(b) whether the demand has also been made for raising an entire regiment based exclusively on castes, religion or State; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Recruitment in the Armed Forces is based on merit and is open to every citizen of the Country including Scheduled Tribes, Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Class candidates without any discrimination on the basis of their caste, creed, religion or region. The policy of the Government is also not to raise any new Regiment based on any particular class, creed, community, religion or region, but to have an Army in which all Indian have representation.

Modernisation of Armed Forces

765. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) how much budget allocations were earmarked for modernization of Armed Forces during the years 2002, 2003 and 2004;

(b) how much amount was actually spent out of these allocations;

(c) what is the status of current Modernisation Plan for the year 2005; and

(d) whether our Armed Forces have developed matching strategic plans to effectively tackle any eventuality in view of belligerent and hostile environments around us?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Budgetary allocations and expenditure there against for Capital Acquisitions in respect of Armed Forces for the last 3 years is given below:—